

Communication Matters

Volume 5, Issue 11 • August 2005

Youth with Hearing Loss Stay in School & Work

According to the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2, youth with hearing impairments (HI) had among the highest rates of school completion in a recent cohort.

- 82% finished high school
- Youth with HI have a 62% employment rate, similar to the rate for youth with disabilities as a whole.
- Youth with HI experienced large increases (since 1990) in engagement in their communities via the dual roles of employee and college student; more than one-third had both worked and gone to school since high school.
- Out-of-school youth with hearing impairments had among the highest rates of participation in organized community groups, and they (along with students with vision impairments) experienced the only significant increases among the disability categories in their participation in volunteer or community service activities since 1990.

For more see:

www.nlts2.org

Soon to Launch...

American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists



Self Help for Hard of Hearing People's (SHHH) ground breaking new self-paced online learning program, the American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists is officially launching to the public November 14, 2005. Sign up for the program before December 31, 2005 and your enrollment fee will be just \$275

Who can benefit from the Academy?

The Academy certificate program is not restricted to any one profession or discipline, but is intended to be useful for people in a wide range of professions.

The goal of the program is to give an overview of hearing loss, explain coping strategies, hearing assistive technology and provide information for advocacy. This program will provide valuable information for rehabilitation counselors and others who provide services to people with hearing loss.

Program Details

The self-paced, online program will consist of four learning modules on the topics:

- Introduction to Hearing Loss
- Coping with Hearing Loss
- Hearing Assistive Technology and Services
- Advocacy, Resources and the Law

Each module will include approximately 15 lessons. The training program will include: non-graded tests, interactive online discussion forums for students, and a graded and timed online final examination. There will be books and hardcopy reading materials, along with suggested special interest reading lists. All lessons, assignments and tests can be completed at the student's own pace from a home computer with Internet access.

Upon successful completion of the certificate program, the graduate will become a member of the American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists for a specified length of time. To maintain membership in the Academy, graduates will have an annual CEU requirement and an additional examination every few years.

For details see:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/academy/index.html>

Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net.

Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.



For Hearing Care on a Low Income

AUDIENT is a nationwide program with the mission to help individuals living on a low income to access quality hearing care at a very low cost. The program depends on the generosity of provider and supplier partners, who reduce the costs for income qualified patients.

There are AUDIENT providers in Michigan. However, the basis of the program is the patient. Once the patient is income qualified, then the process of a referral to a good AUDIENT provider begins.

The AUDIENT Process

The AUDIENT Program Services Department deals directly with the candidate or the candidate's contact person. The first step is to become income qualified. There are 4 options for a candidate to request an application:

- Phone 206-838-7194 or 1-877-AUDIENT
- E-mail at info@audientalliance.org
- Fax to 206-838-7195
- If the candidate has a patient brochure, he or she can fill in the form with their mailing address and they will be sent an application through the mail.

Once AUDIENT has received the signed and completed application, along with proof of income, they will mail the candidate written verification of their income qualification. At that time the qualified patient is referred to EPIC Hearing Health Care, who will contact the patient and discuss the most convenient hearing care provider referral for the patient.

AUDIENT will provide patient brochures on request. Call them at 1-877-AUDIENT.

Or visit the AUDIENT Program web site:

<http://www.audientalliance.org>

deaf success **Video-based**
p r o d u c t i o n s **Training Programs**

Deaf Success Productions and ASL Media, LLC specialize in video-based training, interactive multimedia and custom training development for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Ultimate Career Video Series (DVD or VHS)

Reg. Price: \$1,599.95, Now \$599.95

<http://www.deaftraining.com/>

Economics & Adults Identified as Low-Functioning Deaf (LFD)

A paper by Frank G. Bowe

From the abstract:

"Individuals who read below second-grade level, achieved in school below fourth-grade level, and/or have secondary conditions in addition to deafness may be identified by State rehabilitation agency counselors or professionals at other One-Stop Career Center agencies as "low-functioning deaf" (LFD). There are an estimated 129,000 to 165,000 such adults in the United States today. Most do not work. Rather, they tend to be on Federal and Federal-State benefits programs, notably Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare. SSI recipients typically also receive Medicaid benefits while those on SSDI generally receive Medicare benefits. As of April 2002, Federal spending on these adults exceeds \$1 billion/year."

Can adults identified as LFD be rehabilitated to work, so as to save taxpayers substantial sums of money?

Dr. Bowe answers, "Yes!" and backs up his emphatic statement with examples of three demonstration projects conducted in the mid-1990's. The persons served in these project were not only LFD, most had a secondary disability.

Since it has been demonstrated that LFD adults can become employed, does it make sense for the Federal Government to launch a major program to train for employment large numbers of such individuals?

Dr. Bowe asserts with supporting data:

"... the Federal Government stands to save some \$6,000 a year (in the case of SSI) to \$10,000 a year (in the case of SSDI) for each year that people work instead of continuing to draw benefit checks. Because rehabilitating to work adults who are LFD has been shown to cost just a fraction of those amounts, it is clear that a new Federal program would produce savings within the first year or, certainly, by the beginning of the second year of the program."

If you are interested in reading the complete policy paper by Dr. Bowe, send an e-mail to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net